

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A method for joining a plane component to a hollow section, wherein the component and the hollow section are inserted in an internal high pressure forming tool positioned in relation to each other and are connected through the subsequent aid of a fluidic high internal pressure in the hollow section, comprising:

applying the high internal pressure, and
pressurizing the walls of the hollow section and the component, which rest against and are supposed to be connected with each other, by way of a die integrated in the forming tool so that the wall of the hollow section is punched such that a slug created in this way is attached in a positive bonding manner to one area of a hole edge and increases in terms of its width towards its free end, and so that a section in the form of a link, which has the same shape as the slug, is bent out of the wall of the component into the hollow section in a position that engages behind the hole edge of the hollow section.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the link of the component is precut prior to insertion of the component into the forming tool.

15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein a contour of the link of the component is stamped onto the component prior to insertion of the component into the forming tool.

16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the link is cut together with the slug by way of the die.

17. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein when pressurizing the walls of the hollow section and the component by way of the die, two links and two slugs are guided out of the walls of the component and the hollow section into their joining positions, and wherein the links and slugs extend into a joint hole and are each diametrically opposed.

18. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the link is one of several links bent out of the wall of the component in at least two separate areas, and wherein the wall of the hollow section is punched in accordance with position.

19. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the hollow section is expanded into a box profile by the high internal pressure from a blank with a round cross-section.

20. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein when pressurizing the walls of the hollow section and the component by way of the die, two links and two slugs are guided out of the walls of the component and the hollow section into their joining positions, and wherein the links and slugs extend into a joint hole and are each diametrically opposed.

21. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein when pressurizing the walls of the hollow section and the component by way of the die, two links and two slugs are guided out of the walls of the component and the hollow section into their joining positions, and wherein the links and slugs extend into a joint hole and are each diametrically opposed.

22. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein when pressurizing the walls of the hollow section and the component by way of the die, two links and two slugs are guided out of the walls of the component and the hollow section into their joining positions, and wherein the links and slugs extend into a joint hole and are each diametrically opposed.

23. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the link is one of several links bent out of the wall of the component in at least two separate areas, and wherein the wall of the hollow section is punched in accordance with position.

24. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the link is one of several links bent out of the wall of the component in at least two separate areas, and wherein the wall of the hollow section is punched in accordance with position.

25. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the link is one of several links bent out of the wall of the component in at least two separate areas, and wherein the wall of the hollow section is punched in accordance with position.

26. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the hollow section is expanded into a box profile by the high internal pressure from a blank with a round cross-section.

27. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the hollow section is expanded into a box profile by the high internal pressure from a blank with a round cross-section.

28. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the hollow section is expanded into a box profile by the high internal pressure from a blank with a round cross-section.

29. (New) A device for joining a plane component to a hollow section using an internal high pressure forming tool in a cavity of which the hollow section and the component are held in position in relation to each other with sealing dies adapted to seal ends of the hollow section, comprising:

a fluid high pressure generator by which the hollow section can be expanded using a tensile pressure fluid, comprising sealing dies to seal the ends of the hollow section, and

at least one die that is integrated in the internal high pressure forming tool and by which the component and the hollow section can be pressurized such that the wall of the hollow section is punched using a cutting edge of the die while forming an attached slug and a link is bent out of the wall of the component into the hole of the hollow section while undercutting the hole edge.

30. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein, on a side facing an end of the link that in a usage position is connected to the wall of the component in a positive bonding manner, the die comprises a tapered lateral wall with a positive incline, by means of which the link can be pressed together with the slug when the die penetrates into the hole in conjunction with counteracting high internal pressure.

31. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the device comprises at least two separate dies.

32. (New) The device pursuant to claim 29, wherein the die, on its face, comprises a displacement chamfer following the cutting edge.

33. (New) The device according to claim 33, wherein the displacement chamfer is arranged on both sides of the cutting edge.